Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, PDEV, WA, SF

SUBJECT: MUDGE STATEMENT ON WALVIS BAY

1. SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS REPORTS OF SEPTEMBER 10 QUOTE DIRK MUDGE, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE TURNHALLE, AS SAYING THAT, WHILE NOT DISPUTING SOUTH AFRICA'S "ABSOLUTE RIGHT" TO WALVIS BAY, HE HOPED THAT "ONE DAY SOUTH AFRICA WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO HAND OVER WALVIS BAY" TO SOUTH WEST AFRICA/NAMIBIA. MUDGE COMMENTED ON THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF WALVIS BAY AS A PORT AND SAID THAT "WHILE THERE IS INSTABILITY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT MR. VORSTER VIEWS WALVIS BAY IN A SERIOUS LIGHT. BUT ONE DAY I HOPE THAT PEACE MIGHT RETURN TO THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND THEN PERHAPS SOUTH AFRICA MAY FEEL IN A POSITION TO BE ABLE TO HAND IT OVER TO US."

2. COMMENT: MUDGE'S STATEMENT, ALTHOUGH QUALIFIED, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS THE FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION FROM A WHITE TURNHALLE LEADER THAT WALVIS BAY SHOULD BE INCLUDED AS PART OF NAMIBIA. NON-WHITE TURNHALLE LEADERS, INCLUDING CLEMMENS KAPUUO, BEN AFRICA, ANDREW KLOPPERS, AND PETER KALANGULA, HAVE IN THE PAST INSISTED TO EMBASSY OFFICERS THAT BOTH WALVIS BAY AND A NUMBER OF SMALL ISLANDS OFF THE NAMIBIAN COAST ARE INTEGRAL PARTS OF

NAMIBIA. BOWDLER

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